

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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R 071640Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4989

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DUBLIN 1216

NOFORN

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PBOR, EI

SUBJECT: HEATH VISIT TO DUBLIN

REF: DUBLIN 1193

SUMMARY. IRISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL STATES MAIN TOPIC OF HEATH-COSGRAVE VISIT TO DUBLIN WILL BE PLANNING FOR PROPOSED COUNCIL OF IRELAND AND GOI, HMG, NI TRI-PARTITE CONFERENCE, EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE NEXT MONTH. BRITISH AND IRISH HAVE EXCHANGED PAPERS ON PROPOSED COUNCIL, AND GOI HOPES BROAD POLITICAL LINES CAN BE AGREED AT MEETING. SECURITY AND IRISH RECOGNITION OF NORTHERN IRELAND MAY ALSO ARISE. OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT GOI ENVISAGES NEW CONSTITUTION FOR REPUBLIC AS PART OF NORTH SOUTH SETTLEMENT. OPPOSITION LEADER LYNCH AND DUBLIN MEDIA WELCOMED HEATH VISIT.

1. AT OUR REQUEST, GOI FONOFF OFFICIAL BRIEFED EMBOFF ON IRISH EXPECTATIONS RE HEATH VISIT TO DUBLIN SEPTEMBER 17. MAIN TOPIC WILL BE PROPOSED COUNCIL OF IRELAND. GOI AND HMG HAVE EXCHANGED PAPERS ON COUNCIL. GOI PAPER IS VERY DETAILED AND DISCUSSES SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS THAT MIGHT BE TURNED OVER FROM EVERY DEPT OF GOVERNMENT TO COUNCIL, AS WELL AS LEGAL STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL. NOT ALL OF GOI THINKING HAS BEEN HANDED OVER, WHICH IMPLIES THAT PARTS OF GOI POSITION ARE NEGOTIABLE.

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2. FONOFF OFFICIAL SAID HMG PAPER WAS MORE GENERAL AND FORMULATED IN TERMS OF OPTIONS AND SUBOPTIONS -- AMOUNTING TO AS MANY AS ELEVEN COMBINATIONS. (PLEASE PROTECT THIS INFO.) IRISH HOPE THAT BECAUSE GOI DOCUMENT IS MORE CONCRETE, IT WILL BE ACCEPTED AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. DETAILED MEETINGS WILL BE HELD, PROBABLY IN LONDON, NEXT WEEK TO TRY TO NARROW GAP BEFORE HEATH AND COSGRAVE MEET.

3. GOI HOPES THAT HEATH-COSGRAVE MEETING WILL ACHIEVE AGREED BROAD POLITICAL PRINCIPLES OF COUNCIL. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THESE LINES WILL BE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING MEETING. GOI HOPES TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE CAN TAKE PLACE ONE MONTH FROM NOW. WHILE IRISH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT THINKING IS FAIRLY CLOSE, AND GOI EXPECTS NO PROBLEMS WITH SDLP, BIG CONCERN IS THAT CRAIG-PAISLEY GROUP WILL CREATE DIFFICULTIES. FONOFF OFFICIAL STATED EXPLICITLY AND INSISTENTLY THAT GOI WANTS ALL RPT ALL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTHERN IRELAND PEOPLE REPRESENTED AT CONFERENCE, AS LAID DOWN IN NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTITUTIONAL ACT, BECAUSE VIABILITY OF COUNCIL ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE IN SEVERE JEOPARDY IF SIGNIFICANT MINORITY (RIGHT-WING IN THIS CASE) WERE NOT INCLUDED.

4. OFFICIAL EXPECTED BRITISH MIGHT RAISE SECURITY BUT DOUBTED THAT HMG COULD HAVE MUCH CONCERN IN VIEW CURRENT STATE OF BRITISH-IRISH COOPERATION. HE SAID GOI DID NOT WANT TO MOVE IN DIRECTION OF JOINT RUC/GARDA PATROLS (WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF SPECULATION IN DUBLIN MEDIA RECENTLY) UNTIL CLEARER CONSENSUS ON SECURITY HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN NORTHERN IRELAND. FONOFF OFFICIAL SAID WHITELAW PLANS CONFERENCE IN NORTH ON POLICE IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. RE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION, OFFICIAL SAID STRASBOURG CASE WOULD GO AHEAD. BRITISH UNDERSTAND POLITICAL NECESSITY FOR GOI TO PURSUE ISSUE; BOTH GOI AND HMG HAD BEEN CRITICIZED BY EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FOR DELAYING ACTION ON CASE. IN LONGER TERM, GOI ENVISAGES THAT EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION WILL BECOME PART OF BASIC LAW IN BOTH NORTHERN IRELAND AND REPUBLIC. PROVISIONS AGAINST TORTURE WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN NORTH AND RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRACEPTION, ABORTION AND DIVORCE ELIMINATED IN SOUTH. LATTER ISSUE IS CONSTITUTIONAL AND WOULD PROBABLY BE DEALT WITH IN COMPLETE REVISION OF REPUBLIC'S CONSTITUTION, WHICH APP-CONFIDENTIAL

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EARS NECESSARY STEP IN DEVELOPMENT OF NEW NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONSHIP.

6. IN ABOVE CONNECTION, FONOFF OFFICIAL SAID QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF NORTHERN IRELAND MIGHT ARISE. HE BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT ORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND WOULD OVERTAKE RECOGNITION PROBLEM. PREPARATION OF ENTIRELY NEW CONSTITUTION, WHICH WOULD BE MUCH EASIER

TO SELL TO IRISH PEOPLE IF GOI HAD ACHIEVED COUNCIL, COULD ALSO
ELIMINATE RECOGNITION QUESTION.

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7. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, FONOFF OFFICIAL SAID IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW FIANNA FAIL OPPOSITION WOULD REACT TO LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. HE NOTED OPPOSITION LEADER LYNCH HAD WELCOMED HEATH VISIT THOUGH LYNCH MENTIONED HE HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED IN ADVANCE. SHADOW SPOKESMAN FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MICHAEL O'KENNEDY HAS LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HAS BEEN NOTABLY SILENT. IN ANY CASE, GOI AND OPPOSITION POSITIONS ARE PRETTY MUCH THE SAME, AND LITTLE HAS DEVELOPED ON WHICH THEY COULD DIFFER. FONOFF OFFICIAL STRESSED THAT HEATH-COSGRAVE BILATERAL TALKS WOULD BE PRENEGOTIATION, AND REAL BARGAINING WOULD NOT START UNTIL TRIPARTITE TALKS GET UNDERWAY.

8. OFFICIAL SAID LOCALE FOR MEETING HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED AND SECURITY WOULD BE MAJOR PROBLEM. BECAUSE OF TIME LIMITATIONS MEETING WOULD LIKELY BE HELD IN DUBLIN VICINITY.

9. DUBLIN MEDIA WELCOMED HEATH VISIT, NOTING THAT IT WOULD BE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRELAND BY BRITISH PRIME MINISTER SINCE ASQUITH CAME IN 1916 AFTER EASTER RISING, AND THAT IT WOULD RELIEVE TENSIONS IN IRISH-BRITISH RELATIONS STEMMING FROM LITTLEJOHN AFFAIR. IRISH TIMES NOTED THAT VISIT WAS SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC

RECOGNITION BY HEATH AND HMG OF REAL IMPORTANCE OF IRISH DIMENSION IN SEARCH FOR SOLUTION OF NORTHERN IRELAND CRISIS. BOTH TIMES
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AND IRISH INDEPENDENT WARNED AGAINST OVEROPTIMISM, AND LATTER
COMMENDED HEATH ON HIS COURAGE IN ACCEPTING GOI INVITATION. IRISH
PRESS (PRO-FIANNA FAIL AND REPUBLICAN LEANING) SAID COSGRAVE
SHOULD PRESENT IRISH POSITION BLUNTLY, AND FIRMLY AND SAID THAT
"THERE WAS ONLY ONE SUCCESSFUL POLICY FOR BRITAIN TO PURSUE IN
IRELAND AND THAT IS TO GET OUT."
MOORE

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